MILITARY HERITAGE

A Brief Survey of Military History in Marshall County, Alabama

Prior to any white settlements in the Tennessee Valley area of what is now Marshall County this beautiful country was fought over by competing Indian tribes. The Chickasaw, Creeks and Cherokee tribes had interests in North Alabama with the Cherokee dominant among white settlement began. The Cherokees although nominally peaceful were allied with the British during the Revolutionary War period. During this period some of the settlers were loyalists who wished to avoid fighting with either side in the Revolutionary War. In any event there is no record of any military activity or recruitment in the Marshall County area during this time.

With the establishment in 1785 of Gunter's trading post at the big bend of the Tennessee River early settlers and the friendly Cherokee Indians began to be concerned about their own defense and military matters. In October 1813 Gen. Andrew Jackson established Fort Deposit (near Guntersville) as a base camp for his campaign against the Creek Indian Nation. He recruited both settlers and Indians for his march south to attack the Creeks. On 27 March, 1814 at the Battle of Horsehoe Bend the Creeks were decisively defeated. In his report on the battle Jackson commended the outstanding performance of his "WHITE PLUMES" the forces recruited from the Marshall County area.

After the end of the War of 1812 settlers began to move into the area in large numbers and the Indians were finally forced to accept relocation to new lands in the Oklahoma Territory. This migration was accomplished under the supervision of US Army troops in several stages both over land and by the river. Gunter's landing was a principle assembly area and embarkation point for this program during the period from 1834-39. This forced migration caused great suffering and loss of life among the Cherokees. The migration is now commemorated as the Trail of Tears and Guntersville is one of the trail sites. During this same period the United States was also engaged in the Seminole Indian Wars of 1817. Marshall County men participated in this conflict even during the company of 82 men (FY's Company, Alabama Mounted Volunteers). Although numbers are not available Marshall County Volunteers also participated in the War with Mexico 1846-48.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861 Marshall County quickly became involved. There was sentiment on both sides and the majority of citizens were not slaveholders. There were no major battles in Marshall County but there was a number of minor skirmishes and guerrilla actions by partisans on both sides. The war did involve significant naval activities on the Tennessee River including blockading, partial destruction and temporary occupation of Guntersville in 1862 and 1864. After the Civil War Marshall County like the rest of Alabama experienced the Reconstruction period under Federal troop supervision.

Following the Civil War there was little interest in military matters by most Marshall County citizens. Recovering from the war and expanding agricultural production and population on the mountain plateaus of the county occupied major efforts of the citizenry. By the time of the Spanish American War (1898-1902) Alabama was firmly behind US war efforts. Although Marshall County volunteers participated in the war the few records available do not indicate numbers or extent of their service.

World War I differed from all previous US wars in the extent of participation by all elements of the nation. The draft brought the war home to everyone. Marshall County citizens served by the thousands and on the home front families, businesses and local governments supported the war efforts. This same pattern prevailed in World War II to an even greater extent. During the period between World War I and World War II units of the Alabama National Guard were located in Albertville, Boaz and Guntersville, and after World War II a National Guard Unit was added in Arab. Marshall County support of military forces has been strong ever since World War I and many citizens have followed careers in the US military forces as well as serving in the National Guard and Reserves.

Many of those who served in the various military forces have continued their interest in the military readiness of their country through membership in veterans organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans. Perhaps the best way to appreciate the extent of the support and sacrifices Marshall County citizens have made (and continue to make) for military forces of the United States is to visit any of the many grave yards in the county. You will see markers commemorating service in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnam. Finally, on the Courthouse Square in Guntersville there is a monument which lists all the known deaths of Marshall County citizens who were killed in World War I (27), World War II (831), Korea (17), Vietnam (15) and Grenada (1). We do not have dates on the thousands who have served in the various wars and conflicts, nor can we document the sacrifices and support provided by the families and friends of those who served in the armed forces. We can be sure of one fact, Marshall County has a record of patriotism of which all of us can be proud. Submitted by: Col. Geo Newman

Marshall County Military
Who Paid the Ultimate Sacrifice

World War I

Richardson, Robert C.
Ashburn, Millard J.
Totherow, Charlie
Shuttlesworth, Walter F.
Searcy, Charles H.
Parrish, Steve R.
Walker, Thomas P.
Leach, William G.
Sanders, Allie S.
Powers, Ernest A.
Pope, Hershel A.
Wright, Jesse C.
Taylor, Lester
Payne, Orville B.
Poarch, Peter E.
Fletcher, Newman
Minor, Thomas L.
Johnson, Will
Morris, Green
Kent, Mabon
Nix, Miles T.
Sims, Tom
Powell, M.
Scott, Joe L.
Webb, Cecil
Pope, Herschel A.
Kirkland, Walter M.

World War II

Fortenberry, Wallace H.
Pickering, Emerson L.
Richardson, Orville A., Jr.
Thornhill, Clarence D.
Burleigh, Lawrence C.
Cleckler, Dalton W.
Buchanan, Oliver J.
Rainwater, Robert L.
Smith, Charles C., Jr.
Burbanks, George C.
Campbell, Walter D.
Thompson, Harold A.
Cooley, Crawford S.
Maroney, William T.
Kennon, Melvin J.
Whitehead, Grady B.
Trippett, William C.
Thompson, Samuel G.
Allbritton, Joe C.
Barnister, John T.
Miller, Barnard W.
Johnson, Murray C.
Shores, Irland, Jr.
Bradshaw, James M.
Darrell, Thomas E.
Thompson, James R.
Vaughn, Gannett W.
McDaniel, Ralph E.
Cherry, William D.
Dennis, Pershing
McClendon, Carl E.
Thrower, Cecil F.
Battles, Curtis
Whitaker, Edward
Johnson, Vilus C.
Baugh, Fletcher
Cobb, Thomas A. Jr.
Jacks, Wilmer E.
Lipham, Bryant H.
Thomas, Eugene H.
Harden, Andrew W.
Cochran, James W.
Bishop, Millard
Lemons, Ernest A.
Smith, Kenneth H.
Latham, Marvin W.
Clines, Leander
Kelley, Munford
Bolton, Donald A.
Tomes, Gilbert D.
Whitten, Aasa E.
Burch, Charles O.
Cooley, Norman L.
Tidmore, James G.
Lindsey, Jacob T.
Burden, Harold L.
Griffin, Claud
Butler, Marlin L.
Nearing, Ollie L.
Carroll, Price W.
Scott, Curtis M.
Morton, Hanced F.
Cordle, Artis W.
Slaten, Lawrence V.
Decker, Marvin
Cowart, Haden C.
Masters, James L.
Dennis, Wilmer
Masters, Donald R.
Smith, Harmon L.
Tollison, Leon
Martin, Hubert M.
Jones, Vernon G.
Latham, Perry J.
Weaver, Marlin
Dobbs, Milton S.
William Henry Harrison Haynes

William Henry Harrison Haynes was a brother of my great-grandmother, Susan Ella Haynes Williams. I have traced him to Marshall County in 1880, and I want this article to preserve his memory and perhaps find its way to his descendants.

Harrison Haynes' parents were James H. Haynes and Cassie Ann Threlkeld. James was the son of James G. Haynes and Rebecca Rainwater. It is likely that James G. Haynes is related to Moses Haynes of Elbert County, Georgia, a son of Jasper Haynes. He was possibly a nephew of Moses Haynes. Rebecca Rainwater was a daughter of John Rainwater and his wife Susannah, of Spartanburg, SC. Cassie Ann Threlkeld was probably a daughter of William H. Threlkeld, a teacher born in Virginia and an early resident of Elbert County, Georgia.

James G. Haynes and Rebecca Rainwater had the following children: Thomas Haynes, 1805-1880, born SC, married Margaret Fortenberry, buried at Sardis Baptist Church, Hart County, Georgia (formerly Elbert); Charles W. Haynes, circa 1807-1847, born SC, married flora McCurry in Elbert County, Georgia, likely died and is buried in Monroe County, GA; James H. Haynes; Martha Haynes; Polly Haynes; William Haynes; Elizabeth Haynes; and Simpson Haynes. James and Rebecca are found in Elbert County, Georgia, in 1835 and have not been located after that time, but it is likely they went back to the Spartanburg, SC, area.

James H. Haynes was born June 20, 1813, in SC. Cassie Ann Threlkeld was born in Georgia January 19, 1816. They were married December 24, 1835, in Elbert County, Georgia. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Monroe County, Georgia, and appear to be in the household of James' brother, Charles W., on the 1840 census. James administered Charles' estate in Monroe County. An obituary for their daughter, Cynthia Rebecca, states that she was born in Monroe County, about 1848. Parts of Monroe County were taken to form Pike and then Spalding counties. The James H. Haynes family is found in Pike County in 1850 and in Spalding County in 1860, but they probably never actually moved. Cynthia Rebecca's obituary also states that her parents moved to Carroll County, Georgia, in 1861. James H. Haynes and Cassie Ann Threlkeld lived out their lives in Carroll County where he was a miller. They were Primitive Baptists.

James H. Haynes died August 20, 1881, and Cassie Ann Threlkeld died July 8, 1886. They are buried in the old Concord Primitive Baptist Church cemetery, a cemetery which is being reclaimed and restored.

Children of James H. Haynes and Cassie Ann Threlkeld, all of them born in Georgia: Thomas J. Haynes, 1815-1906; married Sophia A. Williams, buried old Concord cemetery; Eliza Ann Haynes, born about 1839, married John F. Powell; William Henry Harrison Haynes; Cynthia Rebecca Haynes, born about 1848, died March 26, 1891, married James Thomas Hamrick; Amanda Caroline Haynes, born about 1852, married James F. Brock; and Susan Ella Haynes, August 1, 1854-July 19, 1918, married Charles Benjamin Williams, both buried Jordan Cemetery, Carroll County, GA.

William Henry Harrison Haynes married Sarah J. Stephenson on December 20, 1866, in Carroll County. The young couple lived next door to his parents in 1870. From census records, Sarah is the daughter of James T. and Elizabeth Stephenson. Sometime after 1874, the family moved from Georgia and in 1880 Harrison and Sarah are found in Marshall County, where he was a farmer.

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